

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 422
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the dispensing of legend drugs, narcotics and controlled substances.

WHEREAS, drug abuse is a societal problem that has reached epidemic proportions;
and

WHEREAS, as we wage our never-ending war against drug abuse, we must avail ourselves of all necessary and prudent means to end the personal and societal devastation that drugs cause; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing trend of persons addicted to drugs illegally obtaining prescription forms from physicians or hospitals, filling out such prescription forms for dangerous narcotics or controlled substances, and presenting such forged prescriptions to be filled by a pharmacist; and

WHEREAS, there is presently no state law requiring persons presenting prescriptions to be filled by a pharmacist to positively identify themselves as being the person for whom the prescription has been written; and

WHEREAS, there has been legislation introduced before the 99th General Assembly that would require a person to present a valid driver license or other form of picture identification when presenting a prescription to be filled and to sign a receipt book acknowledging that he/she received the drugs indicated on the prescription; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would also require the pharmacist filling the prescription to record the person's driver license number or other identifying number and verify the signature on the receipt book as the same as the name on the identification presented; and

WHEREAS, if the person attempting to fill the prescription does not comply with these requirements, the pharmacist would be required to refuse to fill the prescription until such time that the person complies; and

WHEREAS, such legislation could prove beneficial in alleviating the problem of stolen prescription forms being used to forge prescriptions for narcotics and controlled substances; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should thoroughly investigate all prudent and necessary measures to combat the havoc and misery that drug abuse imposes upon our society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the dispensing of legend drugs, narcotics and controlled substances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of four (4) members of the Senate and four (4) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly. At its first meeting, the special joint committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers that the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1997, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

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